

REMARKS

No claims have been canceled or added in this paper. Claim 25 has been amended in this paper. Therefore, claims 1-25 are pending. Of these claims, claims 1-24 are withdrawn as being directed at a non-elected invention, as discussed further below. Therefore, claim 25 is under active consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office communicates the following election of invention requirement:

Group I, claim(s) 1-24, drawn to methods for analyzing methylation status of nucleic acids.

Group II, claim(s) 25, drawn to a kit comprising nucleic acid primers.

In response to the above, Applicants respectfully elect Group II, claim 25.

Also in the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office communicates, in pertinent part, the following additional requirement:

Additionally, each group named above is subject to a further restriction. This application contains claims directed to one or more SEQ ID NOS. Applicant is required to select one SEQ ID NO for a forward primer, one SEQ ID NO for a reverse primer, and one SEQ ID NO for a blocker, to which all claims will be restricted. The SEQ ID NOS recited in claims 4, 5 and 25 have in common the fact that they may be used in the investigation of the GSTP1 gene. However, Olek also teaches primers to use in the investigation of the GSTP1 gene (see Examples 2 and 3, pages 11-12). Therefore, there is no special technical feature over the prior art that is shared among the recited SEQ ID NOS.

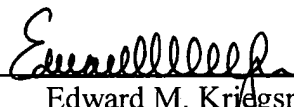
In response to the above, Applicants respectfully elect SEQ ID NO. 2 (Forward primer F1) for a forward primer, SEQ ID NO. 36 (Reverse primer R5) for a reverse primer, and SEQ ID NO. 46 (Blocker gstp1.10B107) for a blocker. Claim 25 is readable on the elected species.

In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

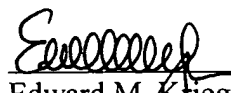
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 17, 2007


Edward M. Kriegsman